Allocation of funds for national afforestation programme

†2791. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the States under National Afforestation Programme during current year along-with the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the area of forest cover increased due to this programme; and

(c) Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) An amount of Rs. 355.55 crores has been allocated for the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme during the current financial year (2007-08), out of which Rs. 51.00 crores is allocated for the North Eastern States. The State-wise fund allocation has not been done under the Scheme, as funds are provided as per the approved Forest Development Agency (FDA) project proposals, satisfactory utilization of funds released previously and submission of necessary documents by the States to this Ministry.

(b) The NAP scheme envisages treatment of degraded forests and adjoining areas for improvement of existing forest cover as well as for its expansion, and is operated in conjunction with other measures and schemes for forest protection, conservation and development. The Ministry has not commissioned any specific study to assess the increase in forest cover due to the NAP Scheme.

(c) The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages the goal of achieving one-third of the land area of the country under forest or tree cover overall, and two-thirds in the hills and in mountainous regions.

Illegal felling of trees

†2792. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of illegal felling of trees in forest of the country has increased alarmingly; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.